



COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO HEALTH AGENCY

Public Health Department

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Provider Alert: Isoniazid (INH) Shortage

There is a nationwide shortage of isoniazid (INH), as reported in the December 21, 2012 Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report. INH is a potent and highly effective drug for treatment of latent TB infection (LTBI) and TB disease. This alert describes what is known about the INH shortage and resources to address any supply concerns or other questions you may have.

What is known about the INH shortage?

Since December 2012, reports of difficulty obtaining INH in California and the U.S. have increased. While 300 mg INH tablets were first noted to have limited supply, 100 mg tablets are now depleted in several locations. In the U.S., INH is supplied by Teva, VersaPharm, and Sandoz; all suppliers have been affected. The low INH inventory is thought to be due to a shortage of the active ingredient in INH and to shipping delays.

According to sources at U.S. Food and Drug Administration and suppliers of INH, increased access to INH is anticipated by the end of January 2013. However, there is uncertainty about this timeline and whether the supply over the next several months will meet the demand needed to treat patients.

- If INH is not available for a patient who is currently on LTBI treatment with INH, then contact your local TB program for information on changing the patient to another regimen

Resources:

- San Luis Obispo County Tuberculosis Control Program: 781-5500
- California Dept. of Public Health, TB Control Branch, Nurse Consultant or Medical Officer: (510) 620-3000
- FDA Drug Shortage Website: <http://www.fda.gov/Drugs/DrugSafety/DrugShortages/ucm050792.htm>

References:

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